

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MEETING MINUTES

July 27, 2005

7:00 p.m.

ATTENDING

Gloria A. Aparicio
Patricia E. Cornish
Deborah Horan
Shirley L. Johnson
Elizabeth Keyes
Resa Levy
Fauzia R. Najm
Martha Nguyen
Regina L. Oldak
Shelia Parker
Gary P. Smith
Yun Jung Yang

STAFF

Paula S. Rodgers
Tracy Stuger
Judith Vaughan-Prather

ABSENT

Holly Fechner
Anne S. Kasper
Tedi S. Osias

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.....Horan

President Horan called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. There were no changes to the Agenda.

One correction and one typo were noted in the Minutes of the June 22, 2005 meeting. On page 2, Item C., Ms. Osias' name should be deleted as she did not attend the Board Member training held on June 24. Also replace the word "some" with "one" of the newly appointed commissioners who attended the training. On page 8, the correct spelling of Dorothy Fait's name was noted. Upon the motion of Commissioner Smith, duly seconded by Commissioner Oldak, the Minutes of June 22, 2005 were adopted as amended.

II. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

President Horan welcomed the five new commissioners and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves to each other. Current commissioners also gave a brief overview of their backgrounds and service on the CFW. Staff members were also introduced. Ms. Horan recognized the talent on the CFW and commented that she is looking forward to working with all of the commissioners.

III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTHoran

A. Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

On July 26, Montgomery County Councilmembers Steve Silverman and Mike Subin introduced legislation to create a Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. The legislation was co-sponsored by Councilmembers Nancy Floreen and Marilyn Praisner.

This legislation attempts to create a task force similar to the County Executive's Task Force on Domestic Violence which was established in the early 1980's at the request of the Commission for Women. That task force was established by an Executive Order that had to be officially periodically extended in order to authorize the work of the task force. After 1998, the Executive Order apparently expired although the task force continued to meet and work up until 2003, when the absence of an extension was discovered.

The Commission for Women greatly supports the creation of this Task Force. In 2004, former CFW president Dorothy Fait sought the Commission's support for continuing the Task Force and for making it a permanent body through legislation. The CFW followed up with a letter in support of this initiative. In June of this year, Executive Director Vaughan-Prather met with the County Executive's staff to discuss the matter.

Staff support for the proposed Domestic Violence Coordinating Council would come from the Sheriff's Office. A public hearing on the legislation is scheduled for September 20, 2005.

B. Meeting with Councilman Leventhal

A delegation from the CFW (Commissioners Osias and Cornish, accompanied by Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and Counseling Center Program Manager Elma Rambo), met with Councilman George Leventhal on July 21 to brief him on the work of the CFW. The CFW staff prepared a PowerPoint presentation regarding the CFW's work. Councilman Leventhal asked the CFW if it would be interested in helping with a study of the issue of domestic workers. He also suggested that the CFW develop a brochure on domestic workers rights. Mr. Leventhal said that he was committed to providing funds to staff the study.

C. CFW Vice Presidents

Commissioners who are interested in running for 1st and 2nd vice president of the Commission for Women must turn in their Intent to Run forms to Executive Director Vaughan-Prather by August 24—the date of the CFW Annual Planning Meeting. Elections will be held at the September 28 CFW meeting. The CFW Executive Committee is comprised of the CFW committee chairs, the president and the two vice presidents. Intent to Run forms were distributed at the meeting.

D. Afterschool for All – Project 2010

At the invitation of former CFW commissioner Jodi Grant, now the Executive Director of Afterschool Alliance in Washington, D.C., CFW has signed on to become a partner in the Afterschool for All: Project 2010. The Project 2010 is working to raise awareness about the urgent need for more afterschool programs and it is supported by a group of public, private and nonprofit organizations that share its mission to give all children access to afterschool programs by the year 2010. Commissioners who represent endorsing organizations are encouraged to have their organizations also sign on to the Project. A list of current Project 2010 partners and additional information can be found at http://www.afterschool2010.org/2010_list.pdf

Commission staff was instrumental in getting NACW to sign on as well, and to encourage member CFW's all across the country to sign on, too.

E. August Planning Meeting

The CFW Annual Planning Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24 at **6:00 p.m. in the conference room. This is one hour before our meetings are routinely scheduled.** Commissioners are encouraged to think about CFW priorities for FY 06. Dinner will be provided.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Mikulski Letter

CFW sent a letter to Senator Barbara Mikulski thanking her for introducing legislation providing for research on uterine fibroids.

B. Congressman Chris Van Hollen has signed on as a co-sponsor to the reauthorization of the 1994 Violence Against Women Act.

C. BPW Woman of Achievement

At the June 22 CFW meeting, Commissioners voted to co-sponsor the 2005 BPW Women of Achievement event. The banquet will be held on October 6, 2005 to commemorate National Business Women's Week, at the Holiday Inn in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

D. State Funding for Pregnant Women's Health Care

Last month, County Executive Douglas Duncan released a statement opposing Governor Ehrlich's elimination of \$1.5 million in funding for health care for low income women. The CFW wrote to the Governor urging that the funds be restored. The funds were later instated. On July 20th, County Executive issued a statement urging the Governor to immediately restore \$5.5 million in health care funding for children that was cut from the state's 2006 budget.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) National Offices

The NACW organization has been struggling for a few years and is now in great financial difficulty. The Montgomery County CFW is considering offering some kind of help, possibly some staff support, and maybe the use of some office space. (See additional detail of this issue under Item VI. Staff Report).

B. County's Small Business Owner Proposal

Commissioner Cornish reported that KC Shore, a county small business owner brought to the CFW's attention legislation proposed by the Chamber of Commerce and being considered by the County Council that would raise the definition of small businesses from those producing \$2 million in resources annually to \$10 million. Ms. Shore has written a letter complaining that raising this ceiling would make it difficult for the truly small businesses to compete for county contracts. Several commissioners pointed out that most women-owned businesses are far too small to benefit from this change.

Commissioner Cornish moved that CFW write to the County Council opposing any increase in size in the definition of small business. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and was passed unanimously. Ms. Cornish will draft the letter.

VI. STAFF REPORT.....Vaughan-Prather

A. National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) Conference

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather attended the 36th annual NACW conference Miami, Florida July 13-17. Ms. Vaughan-Prather said that while the workshops were very informative, the business meetings centered on the financial difficulties that NACW is experiencing.

There are over 200 CFW's in the country, yet, only 67 of those organizations are members of NACW, and fewer than 40 of those member organizations attended the conference. Dues paid by NACW's members and the annual conferences typically raise the majority of funding for the organization.

Due to NACW's financial situation, the NACW board will most likely have to close its national office located in Silver Spring, MD. Ms. Vaughan-Prather has been asked to serve as an associate director on NACW's board and was asked if the MCCFW might be willing to consider helping to provide staff support to the organization, and possibly some office space.

On July 20, Ms. Vaughan-Prather discussed NACW's problems with the CFW Executive Committee and whether CFW could offer staff support for answering telephones and handling mailings for NACW. Ms. Vaughan-Prather said that no commitments will be made for anything that CFW can not do. She will continue to work with the Executive Committee on a proposal to present to the County's Chief Administrative Officer.

B. County Telework Policy

The County Executive's office developed a Telework Policy for county employees in non-bargaining unit positions to participate in alternative work arrangements. This policy will surely benefit women in the workforce. Commissioner Oldak's motion that a letter be drafted commending the County Executive's office for initiating the Telework Policy was seconded by Commissioner Levy and unanimously passed.

C. Mileage and Child Care Reimbursement for Commissioners

Forms for requesting mileage and dependent care reimbursement were included in the meeting packet. The rates have increased to \$10 per meeting for mileage and \$30 per meeting for dependent care. The reimbursement funds come from a non-departmental account, not from the CFW's budget. Commissioners discussed the idea that those members who chose to do so, may donate the reimbursement to be used for future CFW projects.

D. Staffing

In the FY05 approved budget, CFW received funding to create a part-time Program Specialist position to be shared between the Executive Director's office and the Counseling and Career Center. Filling the position was deferred because of department budget cut-backs. Funding was approved in the FY06 Budget to add an additional 10 hours to the position for updating the 1997 Status of Women Report.

Staff decided that the funding for the Program Specialist position will instead be used to hire an additional part-time counselor for the Counseling and Career Center at 16 hours per week. The funds in the FY06 Budget approved for the Status of Women report will be used to contract out with someone to help staff that project.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will be out of the office August 1-3 and August 8-12.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Technology and Girls (TAG)Smith

The CFW started its TAG initiative about 7 years ago, working to address the issue of the under representation of girls in information technology (IT) courses. Girls are rarely academically prepared to pursue IT in college because they shy away from IT classes in middle school and high school. The CFW partnered with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Montgomery College, and Discovery Communications to offer a special summer computer camp for girls. Over the past 6 years, including this summer, over 370 girls have participated. This year, over 60 girls are attending camp, with about 65 percent on scholarships provided by the Commission for Women to ensure that girls of low income and girls for whom English is a second language may participate.

The TAG initiative has been a wonderful project. This past year, the CFW's graduate student intern conducted a survey of the girls who have attended the camps since the program began. The results of the survey proved to be invaluable and the respondents testified to the very positive impact the camp had on them. (Copies of the survey will be made available to commissioners).

For the last 6 years, the TAG Committee has been a standing committee. The Commission has always had very committed community representatives on the committee. Passion 4 Learning has begun after school IT programs. In addition, MCPS has established, at CFW's recommendation, a system-wide task force.

Commissioner Smith said that he will recommend at the CFW Planning Meeting that the TAG Committee not continue as an official standing committee of CFW, however, he will offer to continue to serve as the CFW's coordinator on TAG issues and the camp.

CFW will plan to notify persons who have served on the TAG Committee, when the committee is formally disbanded.

B. IWin Montgomery Committee.....Yang

The IWin Committee met this afternoon. The English language version of the two brochures ("Sexual Harassment in the Workplace" and "Employment Rights of Pregnant Women") has been printed. The initial translations for the Spanish and the Korean versions have been received; however, there were significant problems with

the translations. Corrections have been noted and the documents have been returned to the printer for corrections and publication.

As a result of the *Chocolate, Checks and Champagne* fundraising event and the new budget year, there are enough funds to translate and print the two brochures in the Chinese and Vietnamese languages. Commissioner Yang said that she will contact Suzy Hung at the Organization of Chinese American Women to see if she can recommend a translator. Commissioner Aparicio noted that there was a large Cameroonian community in Montgomery County and she suggested that the Committee consider translating the brochures into the French language. Ms. Yang responded that a decision to do so would be contingent upon available funding.

C. Policy and Legislation Committee

(1) Predatory Lending - Commissioner Johnson reported that the County Council's July 6 hearing on the Predatory Lending legislation was a very contentious hearing. However, there was agreement on the need for education and training on the issue. The main issue of contention was "disparate impact." Councilman Tom Perez who is one of the bill's sponsors voted against the bill, but it did pass the Committee and will go the full Council in the fall.

(2) 19th Amendment – August 26, 2005 marks the 85th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment—the Women's Right to Vote Act. Commissioner Cornish said that there would be many events taking place around the state to commemorate this anniversary.

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Maryland-Legislative Agenda for Women (M-LAW)

On July 28, M-LAW will hold its first meeting of its new Board of Directors. Commissioner Oldak is on the Board representing the Montgomery County CFW and Commissioner Cornish is on the Board representing BPW. At Commissioner Johnson's request, Ms. Cornish will email Commissioner Johnson an organization membership form for two organizations she knows that are interested in joining M-LAW.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Empty Place At the Table – Save the Date for October 5, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. The Ad Hoc Committee for Domestic Violence Awareness is holding an event to honor and memorialize women and children who have died as a result of domestic violence in Montgomery County.

B. Congratulations were extended to Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather, who has been chosen to receive the Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award from the Maryland Women's Law Center. The award will be presented at a ceremony on October 25 in Baltimore, Maryland.

- C. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has issued a new publication which addresses the health needs of underserved women. President Horan has a copy of the booklet "Special Issues in Women's Health" if anyone is interested in reviewing it.
- D. The National Council of Negro Women is sponsoring a new campaign "Tomorrow Begins Today: African American Women As We Age." This public education campaign seeks to encourage healthy living through social and financial planning. A number of interactive community forums are planned in different cities. Commissioner Johnson's sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha (Theta Omega Omega Chapter), organized the first forum which took place in Washington, D.C. on June 25 with over 500 registrants. A book titled *Tomorrow Begins Today: African American Women As We Age* has been published to coincide with the campaign and offers strategies for successful living and aging. Commissioner Johnson offered to write an article for the next CFW newsletter about the initiative.
- E. Mass Mutual Financial Group is forming a women's advisory board and is especially seeking Asian and Latina women to serve as members.
- F. Commissioner Cornish was interviewed for Channel 16's "Women's World" on the topic of Pay Equity. The show will air tonight and next Wednesday.

X. AJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted By
Paula S. Rodgers
Montgomery County Commission for Women**

CFW Action and Follow-up Items

- ☐ 1. Commissioners who are interested in running for 1st and 2nd vice president of the Commission for Women must turn their Intent to Run forms in to Executive Director Vaughan-Prather by August 24—the date of the CFW Annual Planning Meeting. Elections will be held at the September CFW meeting on September 28.
- ☐ 2. Commissioners who represent endorsing organizations are encouraged to also sign on to the Afterschool for All: Project 2010. A list of current Project 2010 partners and additional information can be found at http://www.afterschool2010.org/2010_list.pdf
- ☐ 3. The CFW Annual Planning Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24 at **6:00 p.m. in the conference room. This is one hour before our meetings are routinely scheduled.** Commissioners are encouraged to think about projects to present as CFW priorities for FY 06. Dinner will be provided.
- ☐ 4. Commissioner Cornish will draft a letter from CFW to the County Council opposing the increase in the net income ceiling that changes the definition of small businesses. Ms. Cornish will draft the letter.
- ☐ 5. Commissioner Oldak's motion that a letter be drafted commending the County Executive's office for initiating the Telework Policy was seconded by Commissioner Levy and unanimously passed. Staff will draft the letter.
- ☐ 6. Staff will make copies of the Summer Computer Camp Survey available to members of the CFW. CFW will plan to notify persons who have served on the TAG Committee, when the committee is formally disbanded.
- ☐ 7. Commissioner Yang will contact Suzy Hung at the Organization of Chinese American Women to see if she can recommend a translator.
- ☐ 8. At Commissioner Johnson's request, Ms. Cornish will email Commissioner Johnson an organization membership form for the two organizations she knows that are interested in joining M-LAW.